WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 20, 1890.

NEWS OF THE WORLD IN BRIEF

I.ewis R. Smith has been appointed as an additional private on the Metropolitan Po-lice force, General Greely says the temperature will

fall twenty degrees, or lower, by 3 a. m. Congressional committeemen interviewed on the District assessment say a better sys-

Librarian Heard of the War Department has been confined to his room for a week with influenza.

The Washington Gaslight Company has leen granted permission to lay a gas mair on Columbia avenue.

The Commissioners have awarded the contract for furnishing gas lamps to the Wheeler Reflector Light Company at \$4.93

The extra attraction at the Womans' Relief Corps Fair last night was the singing of Misses E. Minnie Giton, White, Rice and L. G. Shepherd.

The Commissioners to-day ordered Major Moore to stop the digging of gravel from the roadway of L street between First and Second streets northeast-

A large crowd was present at the fair of Columbia Division, Knights of Pythias. The Nelson Division of the order will visit the fair this evening in a body.

The Commissioners have changed the building regulations so as to allow brick yards, pottery yards, etc., outside of the fire limits, provided they are first approved by them An extension of thirty days for the com pletion of the paving of the street-railway track on Brightwood avenue, between Grant avenue and Princeton street, has

been granted by the Commissioners. Building permits were issued to-day as follows: T. A. Harding, two brick buildings, Nos. 1702 and 1704 P street northwest, to cost \$12,000; George A. Mayers, one brick warehouse, on E street, between North Capitol and First street northeast, to cost \$5,000.

Domestic.

The Methodist Protestants of Baltimore will raise \$10,000 for church extension work in this city. The county commissioners of Baltimore are bard at work on applications for abate-

The second annual banquet of the To-bacco Board of Trade was held at the Mer-chants' Club at Baltimore last night. Barton Trachel of Camden, N. J., is charged with assault and battery on Mary Robinson. He was held in \$500 ball. ment of assessments.

on. He was held in \$500 ball. Harriet Ann Steward, colored, accused of the murder of William Bedford, also colored, has been acquitted at Towsontown,

President Harrison, on his way to Pitts-burg, was received at Cumberland, Md., by a large number of citizens and a brass

Mrs. Emma Alice Waite, formerly of Ceell County, Md., and widely known as the poetess Emma Alice Browne, died in Illinois.

The American Cotton-Seed Oil Companhave filed articles at Trenton, N. J., in creasing its capital stock from \$29,000,00 to \$39,000,000.

Seven executions, aggregating \$12,000, have been issued against Howard Leopold, an extensive dry goods and notion dealer in Pottstown, Pa. It is reported that Mr. C K. Lord will by succeeded as general passenger agent of the Baltimore and Ohio Southwestern by

Mr. O. P. McCarthy. The rubber works at New Brunswick, N. have closed, and 1,200 employes are own out of work. The mild weather is said to be the cause.

A disagreement has broken out in the congregation of the Union Square Metho-dist Episcopal Church at Baltimore about

the retention of the pastor.

The Grand Army of the Republic asks the Maryland Legislature for \$25,000 for the relief of needy soldiers and for \$25,000 to build a hall for battle flags. The Governor of Pennsylvania has granted a respite to James H. Jacobs of Lancaster to April 9 next. The murderer's execution was fixed for the 26th instant.

residing at Allentown, Monmouth Count was committed to jall at Freehold day. She is charged with killing her yesterday. She is charged with killing her new-born babe and throwing the body into Strout's Pond, where it was found. The coroner's inquest revealed the fact that the infant had been born alive.

While between 300 and 400 school children were in the Laurel-Street School building at Reading, Pa. twenty square feet of board ceiling fell with a crash. The children were thrown into a panic, and the cry of "Fire" was raised, and but for the esence of a few cool heads a fearful catastrophe would have taken place. Be youd some bruises the children escaped in

The Bank of England's rate of discount has been advanced to five per cent. The Law Court's building at Alkmare Holland, has been destroyed by fire. Luxemburg has appointed delegates to attend the labor conference to be held at

Berne, Switzerland. One hundred and twenty tenants on the Ponsonby estate in Ireland will be summoned to-morrow to surrender possession of their holdings.

Herr Weigert, a member of a firm of Berlin bankers, has been given a patent for the production of electric light without either dynamos or accumulators.

Russia has demanded of the Governm of Bulgaria the payment of 3,000,000 roubles arrears of money due on account of the Russian occupation during 1878 and 1879. At a meeting in the interest of Herr Doerr, a workman, who is a candidate for election to the Reichstag, held at Bingen, Herr Joest, a Socialist leader, declared that the restoration of Alsace-Lorraine to

The list of the persons summoned to taxe art in the council to consider the conpart in the council to consider the con-dition of the German working people in-cludes a master locksmith, a foreman, a oiner, a polisher, a director of iron works an owner of a factory and Herr Hitze, a member of the Reichstag.

Mr. Tracy at His Office

The Secretary of the Navy visited his office this morning for the second time since the calamity which befel his house-He remained but a short while and devoted his time principally to a confer-ence with Senators Hale and Cameron, of the Naval Committee. Robberies Reported. The following robberies have been r

ported during the past twenty-four hours: A dark-brown chinchills overcoat from the Palnis Royal. About noon yesterday thieves entered the house of Mrs. H. P. Mitchell, 122 Virginia avenue southwest, and carried off a pair of diamond earrings, some other jewelry, and \$4.50 in cash. A navy-blue overcoat was stolen yesterday from the store of Thomas Lee, 1900 Shepherd's

"The Gondolfers." The sale of seats for "The Gondoliers was opened this morning at Droop's music store. The demand was exceedingly heavy, showing that society has resolved to enjoy the novelty white opportunity offers. The opera will be given at Lincoln Music Hall on Monday evening for the first time.

On account of the illness of Judge Bing-ham the case of Henry Johnson, on trial for

gairder, was continued over until to mor-row at 10 o'clock. The jurors were given their freedom under a mutual understand-ing between the counsel and by the author-Remarkable Showing.

C.420,811 cares was the total importation of champagne in the last 10 years. About one quarter was G. H. Mumm & Co's Extra Dry, or over 225,000 cases more than of any

You can order THE CRITIC by postalcardwill be sent to your address every even.

THEIR LIVES IN PERIL.

stories by rows of wooden posts ten feet

apart. These were put in on the recommendation of Edward Clark, Archi

weight of type and machinery placed

This portion of the structure is built of inflammable material, and is, in short, a mere tinder-box. Mr. Palmer,

in his annual report, calls attention to this fact in the following words:

in his annual report, calls attention to this fact in the following words:

"I have caused every practicable appliance for the extinguishment of fire to be provided at convenient points within the building and placed the apparatus in charge of employes skilled in its use. Fire escares have also been provided at all available points throughout the building to assist employes in efforts to reach places of safety in case of real or false alarms. With all these precautions the building is liable at all times of the day and night to destruction by fire. The embarrassment and loss in property alone to the public service through such a calismity would be incalculable; but when the fact is considered that there are more than two thousand employes at times in this building, and that a fire, once started, is liable to spread with great rapidity because of the combustible nature of much of the material in the building, the need for prompt measures for averting the danger would seem to be imperative. The only durable remedy which could be applied would be the construction for the use of this office of a fire-proof building on a new site, or such an extension and reconstruction of the "present"

building on a new site, or such an extension and reconstruction of the present building as would make it fire-proceptorus."

The reporter found numerous well

constructed fron fire escapes about the place. These, however, were nearly all placed in angles of the building and lead into narrow alleys, so that in case

of a bad conflagration they might not be safer than the ordinary stairways.

The latter are wide and the doors com-municating with them open outward. These, as well as the entrances to the

fire escapes, are supposed to be always unlocked. The reporter found one of

the latter, however, locked, the key hanging on the wall some distance

away from it-a serious matter in case

The main danger in case of fire would,

the building. In some of the

however, arise from the crowded condi-

rooms the rows of cases, stones, etc., are so close together that a good-sized

tion and convenient relation to the vari-ous divisions of the office. His idea is

One thing is certain, that if some

thing is not done in these directions there will soonor or later be a terrible

disaster at the Government Printing Office which will stir up the indigna-

of a panic.

Over Two Thousand People at Work in a Death Trap.

ANY DAY MAY SEE A BIG DISASTER.

Fire and Collapse Threaten the Government Printing Office.

Attention Has Been Called to the Dangerous Condition of the Building for Years Past, but no Action Has Been Taken to Provide a Safer One.

Two thousand five hundred men and women, working for the largest and wealthiest employer in the country, are forced to take their lives in their hands every time they enter the building where their daily tasks are performed. It is a gigantic death trap, which may be surprised to the property of the country of

be sprung at any moment and cause one of the greatest disasters of the age. The employer of these people whose lives are in jeopardy during all their working hours is aware of their danger. His attention has been called to it time and again, yet no real effort is made to insure their safety.

This employer, so callous as to the

peril of the people who work for him, is Uncle Sam. The death trap is the Government Printing Office.
For years past the Public Printers,
the employes under them, the members

of the Congressional committees on printing, the Government architects, printing, the Government architects, and the newspapers have been pointing out how not only wholly inadequate but how dangerous is the ramshackle old building which now contains the greatest printing office in the world. Their appeals have, however, been in vain. Patches have been put in here, props there, an occasional lean-to built, and in this make-shift manner the continued use of the building has been tinued use of the building has been made possible.

So persistent has been the neglect of the Government to the appeals in be-half of the safety of the Printing Office employes that the latter had given up all hope of a change for the better and were becoming apathetic to their dan-ger, when an incident occurred the other day which might have resulted in a terrible disaster, and which once more made them thoroughly alive to

their hourly peril.

The building is supplied with electric fire alarms, operated by the breaking of a piece of glass over the face of each one. One of these was accidentally broken the other day and an alarm sounded throughout the building. Fortunately, this happened at noon, when most of the employes were out at lunch. Among those who remained in the building there was for a short time a wild panic. Women shricked and fainted, men flew wildly and aimlessly to and fro, and even some of the peo ple who, of all others, should keep cool on such an occasion-those in charge of the fire apparatus-lost their heads. One of these, upon hearing the alarm, rushed to one of the stand-pipes from which the fire-hose is supplied, and, without stopping to couple on the hose, turned the water on full force. The stream struck him in the face with terrible force, knocking him senseless, and he was removed to a hospital in an ambulance. Fortunately the scare was of short duration. There

antee its safety.

lowing information:

A CRITIC reporter called at the Print-

ing Office last evening for the purpose of examining the building, and was

shown through it by Captain Brian, the

foreman, who has been connected with

the establishment for over twenty years

and knows more about its workings, its

needs and its defects than any man liv-

ing. After walking with the reporter for a distance of several city blocks

through the building, and pointing out the various fire-escapes and other modes

f egress, he gave the reporter the fol

"The constant and rapid increase in

the volume of the public printing ren-

steps be at once taken toward providing

a larger and more suitable building for the office. No branch of the public

accommodated as this. The building was creeted in 1856 by Cornelius Wen

dell, who then had the contract for the

printing. That contract being of un

certain tenure, of course no extra ex-pense was incurred in constructing the

its capacities limited to the necessities

the work at the time, with

thought, provision, or care for its future growth. Additions have been made

from time to time, until no more can be made. The building was never prop-

erly adapted for a printing office, and the additions have made it worse. The

light is bad, the arrangement is incon

venient, and the sanitary condition

while much improved of late years, it

necessarily very faulty. But, even if none of these faults existed, the grave

trouble presents itself that, bad as it is, there is not enough of it. Every divis-

and all kinds of makeshifts are resorted

"Every day the situation is getting worse, and it will not be long before

other quarters will have to be rented or

btained in some way. For several

oald annually in rental for storage-room

distance from the office, necessitating the further expenditure of considerable

sums for hauling to and fro and handling the sheets, besides daity in

convenience and loss of time. If the Government is to continue doing its

mence the erection of a suitable build-ing in which to do it "

The reporter found the older and main portion of the building at the cor-ner of North Capitol and H streets

own printing it should at once

printed sheets at a considerable

ion of the office is crowded for roo

to to get along at all.

service, in my knowledge, is so p

ders it absolutely essential that some

their tardiness in providing for the safety of the people who, in an humble way, do much to make them famous. were some cool heads in each room, who spread the news that there was no INVESTIGATING THE COMMISSION. fire, and in a few moments all was quiet Civil Service Methods Exposed Before the Committee. Supposing, however, that the alarm Charges preferred against the Civil had been given at a time when all hands were at work; that there had really been

the House Investigating Committee last some fire, with it accompanying and alnight by Representative Ewart of North ways alarming smoke, the consequences must have been frightful. The build-Mr. Lyman of Connecticut swore he ing is well supplied with fire apparatus had been connected with the Commisand fire escapes, but there is no force of sion since the day of its organization. cool-headed, trained firemen to operate He admitted that he was a Republican the former, and owing to the crowded condition of the building the latter voted that ticket last fall. Mr. Lyman said Alexander C. Campbell was his wife's brother, and he was appointed to would be practically useless so far as the safety of the employes is concerned in case of panic. July, 1886, and also in 1889, and was Another danger to which the emnot required to pass an examination at ployes are exposed is that of part of the building collapsing. The largest porany time. The examination of Mr. Ly-man also tended to prove that questions tion of it is nearly forty years old, and is a mere shell, erected as a private

were furnished by clerks of the com-mission to their friends upon the outoffice by a man who had a temporary printing contract with the Government Mr. Lyman admitted that cases of and no interest as to the permanency of impersonation of others frequently the structure. It was never intended for the use to which it is now put. In came before the Commission. times a man would pass an examinaorder to keep it from tumbling down a tion by a certain name and another man of the name assumed would be number of wooden props have been put

Mr. Butterworth interrogated the witness as to how the questions were prepared. The latter replied that those of a non-technical character were prepared by the Commission, but that all others were prepared by Examining rds, and even these had to approved by the Commission. questions were printed in the brench of the Government Printing

Mr. Butterworth raised a laugh by asking Mr. Lyman to furnish a set of questions, so that the members of the committee might find out whether they

"Certainly," said Mr. Lyman, "but if we are going to examine Congressmen we must adapt the questions to the persons to be examined.

NON-PARTISAN WORKERS.

Deliberations of the Women's Chris-

The non-partisan Women's Christian Temperance Union met at the Foundry Church to day for the purpose of electing officers and to further their interests in the District. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. J. Ellen Foster, who said the purpose was to raise the standing morally of the public in regard to the liquor traffic and to make war upon the saloons in general.

Mrs. J. Ellen Foster was elected president; Mrs. Lydia H. Tilton, gen-eral secretary; Miss Mattle Bartlett, recording secretary; Mrs. Robert H. Thompson, treasurer; Mrs. N. B. Cushman, financial secretary; Mrs. Clara L. Roach, superintendent of legislative work; Mrs. A. T. Staurt, superintendent of young woman's work; Mrs. superintendent of Sunday school and juvenile work.

ized liquor clubs in the city. Mrs. Dean advocated a reading room and a permanent headquarters.

\$100,000 in Phosphate Beds

Here is a little remance in real life It comes out through the visit to this city of ex-Congressman M. H. Ford, of Grand Rapids, Mich. Some years ago there lived a prosperous man in the Michigan city. He bought 150 acres of land in Fiorida as a flyer. He died. His widow thought the land orthless, and so it was at the time. However, Mr. Ford, who has just rethe midst of the newly-discovered phosphate beds and worth \$100,000. As the widow was poor this discovery propped up on each of the three lower | makes a veritable romance in her life.

BIG MONOPOLY IN SEALS

tect of the Capitol, who made an ex-amination last summer at the request of Public Printer Palmer and found these places in danger of collapsing from the Covernment Giving Away Citizens of the Seas to Land Pirates.

GREAT PROFITS IN ALASKAN FURS.

Hope of Stopping the Steal With Senator Plumb's Bill.

Have Senators Sherman and Hawley Stock in the Seal Company?—What Miner W. Brucr, Representing the Business Men of Alaska, Says,

"The farming out of so vast an enterprise as the Seal Islands Government to a private company is a national disgrace, measure opposed to common public sentiment and one which I, as an Alaskan interested in the Territorial

development, must protest against."

There was no mistaking the estimate There was no mistaking the estimate in which the Alaska Commercial Company is held by Hon. Miner W. Bruce, now in Washington as representative of the business men of Alaska. His unequivocal statements and opinions were called out by a casual reference to the proposed renewal of the lease, a contract which will be ratified on the 23d of February, unless the bill proposed by Senator Plumb is acted upon, or a joint resolution is acted upon, or a joint resolution is passed by both houses providing for the indefinite postponement of the lease. "I am amazed," continued Mr. Bruce,

'that the Government of the United States will become a party to such a gigantic scheme of private parties. I cannot comprehend by what argument its consent is effected, by what means coerced, or by what considerations re-strained from creditable legislation." "Why has no other company made some effort to dislodge the Commercial

Company?"
"Because it is useless. It was obtained twenty years ago by fraud, and refused to higher bidders. After the law had been passed by Congress the Secretary of the Treasury would not close the lease himself, but gave it over to an inferior officer. After twenty years of monopoly the company still man is obliged to walk sideways to get between them. In case of fire and the panic which would be inevitable in a holds the Government in an iron grasp. There is in Omaha to day a syndicate representing millions that was prepared to bid on the lease for 1890, but by re-cent investigation and through reliable place where so many people are em-ployed many would undoubtedly lose their lives by being trampled to death before reaching the exits. advices, the project has been aban-

Public Printer Palmer is in favor of the erection of an entirely new building on another site; but should this not be deemed advisable, he reccommends the "Then you have theories, Mr. Bruce, as to the methods employed by this company in maintaining its supremacy for twenty years, in defiance obstruction of a fire-proof extension of public sentiment. to the present establishment, planned with special reference to light, ventila-

'Theories are not arguments," re plied Mr. Bruce. "Do you know whether or not Sena-ors Sherman and Hawley have stock n this company, which pays 900 per

to purchase for this purpose the land between Jackson Alley and G street and a lot in rear of and extending from the present building to First street. cent.? am not prepared to make any statements concerning the business investments of United States Senators, enators, nor am I inclined o prefer charges that are supported only by current comment or public opinion, but I have no hesitancy in de-nouncing the selfish policy back of this tion and horror of the nation and cause our legislators to bitterly regret extraordinary legislation in favor of

such a monopoly."

Continued Mr. Bruce: "The joint resolution which passed the Senate last month provided that the Secretary of the Treasury be requested to postpone letting of the scal lease and take no further action in the matter until February 21st, and he accordingly notified all parties inter-ested that no further action would be taken at present. It seems to be prevailing opinion that in view of the different propositions in the shape of bills so far introduced in both houses of Congress that there would be no legislation upon the seal question before the time specified by the joint resolution expires, and that on the above date the Secretary will proceed to con-

sider the bids and let the lease. "I have interviewed Mr. Beech Tay or, formerly Government agent at the Seal Islands and later private secretary to Senator Logan. From him I gathered information which agrees with facts that will hereafter appear. Among other things he said: 'I think \$100,000 would be ample to defray all expenses attached to the capture, killing and skinning of the seals for the first sea-son, which includes all the necessary expense of carrying on and maintain-ing schools at the Seal Islands and pay all the employes and possibly the shipment of the pelts to San Francisco if a steamer could be char for that purpose. He deem it necessary for new company to purchase a sea going vessel, until the result of the venture was known.' To my question, 'Would not fifty thousand (\$50,000) dollars be sufficient?' he answered, 'Well, perhaps so; a great deal would a great deal would dep what arrangements could made for the purchase of bouses, store buildings, and pliances now used by the Alaska Commercial Company." He thought that rather than remove their buildings, which would virtually amount to almost a total loss, they would sell them at a reasonable figure.

"As is well known, the present lease expires on May 1 next. company pay a royalty to the Government of \$2.625 per head, and have been allowed to kill 100,000 seals each year. They also pay an annual rental of fifty-five thousand (\$55,000) dollars. Under the proposed new lease the Secretary has fixed the number of the annual catch to 60,000 per annum, a reduction of 40 per cent, below the number allowed under the present lease.

"During the twenty years the present

company have had control of this indus-

try they have killed within a few thou-sand of the allotted 100,000 seals per year, for which they have paid the Government about \$5,250,000, Add to this \$55,000 per annum rental, or for 20 years, making a total of \$1,100,000, or \$6,350,000 paid the Government. As they have taken none but male seals, and those of 2 or 3 years of age, the skins have been prime and have brought in the London market from \$15 to \$28 per skin, or a total of over \$30,000,000 for the twenty years' catch The Alaska Commercial Company have paid the Indians 40 cents per sea for killing and skinning them one item makes a total of \$800,000 for the twenty years. The support of the two schools at the island during the twenty years will reach an expense of \$40,000 which is a very high estimate. The building of suitable houses for the natives, buildings for occupancy of the whites employed, store buildings, fuel and incidental expenses will have to be a rough estimate. On St. Paul Island there are 219 men, women and children, and on St. George Island bardly one-half that number. On St. Paul Island the Alaska Commercial Company have sixty houses, and probably thirty on the Island of St. George. These houses are neat frame buildings.

and would probably cost \$200 each or a total of probably \$20,000. The company have been obliged to furnish sixty cords

of wood to the Indians each year of the equivalent in coal, which official records show as amounting to about one hundred thousand dol lars for the twenty years' supply. Thus it will be seen that the esti-mates given above of the probable

cost of carrying on the seal busines aggregate about as follows: Amount paid the Government for royalty and rental.

Amount paid for-killing and skinning

Total. Amount derived from 2,000,000 skins at \$15 per pelt......\$30,000,000 Less amount of total expenses... 7,310,000

For support of schools

Leaving a total profit for the ..\$22,690,000

twenty years of. Or about \$1,134,000 per year. "It must be remembered that a large portion of the money paid the Indians and white help for labor (of which there are about a dozen of the latter in all) is in goods at, to say the least, a fair profit. It must also be borne in mind that the company procure a large num-ber of valuable furs from the Indians employed at the Seal Islands, for which they pay a very low price in comparison to their real value. Another feature that must not be lost sight of is the fact that the demand for sealskins is far in excess of the supply, and when it is understood that the number of seals to be allowed to be taken in the future is reduced 40 per cent, it be comes apparent that the price of the

scals will increase and the profit of the successful company will be much aug-"I wish also to state that the Alaska Commercial Company have trading posts scattered throughout the Territory among the Aleutian Islands and what we call "to the westward," where an extensive business is carried on with the Indians, where and from which source they procuce large quan-tities of furs. Whether the new com-pany would desire to enter into competition with the present company in this business or not, is a question that can be determined after they see what there is in the seal business.

"Then you are in favor of a new com pany under private parties?"
"By no means. Certainly not. The Government alone should control these fisheries, and turn this vast revenue to national purposes. From my knowledge of the business 1 am prepared to say that \$100, 000 a year will more than cover the expenses of the fisheries, and the 1,000 per cent. would go to the people instead of a few speculators."

"What should be done?" "A resolution should at once be introduced indefinitely postponing the renewal of a lease which means another twenty years' mo-nepoly of the most important industry of the continent, and, as now conducted, one that is a drawback in the settlement and to the prosperity of the Territory. Congress has apof the crying needs of Alaska itself, but plenty of leisure for the protecting and fostering of the most gigantic

onopoly on this continent."
"Do you believe the Government could successfully and profitably carry on the scal business?" "I undertake to say that I will fur nish bonds to the amount of \$500,000, which will be forfeited to the Government if I cannot slaughter, skin and cure 100,000 seal pelts every year for twenty years at \$1 per skin, and I will

that those skins will bring, either in San Francisco or Victoria, British Columbia, \$8 per skin. And let me say to you that the argument that there is danger in the utter annihilation of the fur seal if 100,000 are killed each year is a fallacy, as ridicu-lous as would be the statement that the Alaska Commercial Company s on the border of bankruptcy. And let me further add that if the proposi on of the Secretary of the Treasury to limit the catch to 60,000 per year is carried out. Uncle Sam has not gunboats enough to chase out of Behring Sea the British and American schooners that will swarm those waters; and I will further add that if the Seal Islands are farmed out to the Alaska Commer cial Company, or any other company whose monopoly is as apparent as that existing under the present lease, I shall not be surprised to hear that the very same Seal Islands have been invaded by pirates, who will successfully carry of next season's crop by sheer force."

NAVAL DESERTIONS.

Commodore Samsey Chats About the Commodore Ramsey, chief of the Eureau of Navigation, Navy Departnent, speaking of the reported whole camship Enterprise, which is expected in Boston harbor from Maderia the 1st prox., said: "In the Navy we have much to contend with which does not apply to the Army. A sailor's life, at best, is not a pleasant one, and they are invariably underpaid. This does not especially apply to our Government, but all Powers. It is a fact that we pay sailors more than any other country and that is the principal reason that so many foreigners flock to our standard "It is well enough, in theory, to posthe motto, 'Put none but Americans on

guard,' but it is impossible so far as the sailers of the Navy are concerned. "We have training ships, wisely pro tected by Congress, for the nautical education of American juvenility, but after we educate them they leave us for other pursuits, absolutely refusing to reasons which might be quoted to ex-plain why America is not the home of the sailor. We have no merchant ma-rine to recruit from, and if we had the temptations offered by a man-of-war are not so dazzling that we could ex

pect desertions from the more independ ent ranks of commerce. 'Standing upon the pier of a first class harbor you will see many vessels departing which carry the American , but go upon their decks and you will see the ship manned by foreigners During the late civil war the Govern ment was offering \$1,000 bounty fo enlisted men for the army, but it has never offered a cent of bounty to sailors. The consequence was that men flocked to the land forces and left the water severely alone. Unless heroic measures had been applied we would have been seriously embarrassed, but we got an order to transfer 10,000 men who had received their bounty) from the Army to the Navy

So far as the alleged desertions from the Enterprise are concerned, I can merely say that the ship is due on the 1st of March, and it will then be time to investigate fully.

Ferber-Gordon. A pretty little wedding took place yes-terday, when Mr. Lawis J. Ferber was united in marriage to Miss Ida C. Gordon, both of Washington. ments from year to year. Dr. William Tindall, the secretary of

MR. GROUT'S TAX VIEWS

Advice From the Head of the Hous District Committee.

EQUALIZATION PLANS ELSEWHERE

Congressmen Rowell and Hemphill Also Discuss the Problem.

Some System of Assessment Needed, but the Legislators for the District Have Given the Matter no Consideration-Mr. Pritchett Speaks.

Congressman William W. Grout, the chairman of the House Committee on the District, when asked yesterday what would be the most feasible method of correcting the glaring irregularities of

the city assessments, said: "If the law provides that the assessors shall assess real estate at its true cash value, and they refuse to follow spirit of the law, they can be indicted for this dereliction. Of course, it is difficult to say what the true cash value of a property is. That is a matter that unust be left largely to the discretion and judgment of the assessors, and they should follow some system in their

work. "Up in my State, Vermont, the listers, as the assessors are called, all meet together before they begin their work and decide upon a uniform basis of assessment. All yearling cattle are decided to be worth so much, two year-oids so much more, farms of a certain productiveness so much an acre, and so on through the list. Such a plan serves to equalize the taxation and to prevent unfair discrimination. "A board of revision of taxes, such

as has been suggested, an independent body having general supervision of the work of the assessors, might be a good thing, but as that is a matter that may come before us for legislation, I don't care to discuss it. As to the bearing of the assessments upon the finances of the city, that is something with which we have nothing to do. The Appro-priations Committee has full charge of he expenditures and revenues of the District, so far as the Government is concerned, and we have nothing to do with them. It is possible that a differ-ent system of assessment from the present might equalize the taxation and make a lower tax rate possible, but that is really a matter to which I have given

"The whole tax system of the District ought to be revised," said Representa-tive J. H. Rowell of Illinois, who was for four years a member of the District Committee and during that time gave very careful attention to the affairs of Washington. "The present system is cumbersome and defective in many ways. Instead of triennial there should be blennial assessments, and some uniform basis of valuation should be adopted. Common sense, it would be supposed, should lead the assessors to agree upon some common rate of valuation before beginning their work. "Then there should be an Equalizing Board, or Board of Revision, to see that

the assessments are fairly made. In Illinois we have a State Equalizing Board, to see that assessments are on a uniform scale in the different counties. and county boards to see that there is perfect equality in the assessments among the townships. That prevents any unfair discrimination in favor of the rich as against the poor.

"When I was a member of the Dis-trict Committee I remember that there were a number of complaints before us too high assessments. We accordingly passed a law for appeals intermediate between the triennial assess-ments. We never, however, had any complaints that the assessments were oo low, and this is the first time I have beard of the matter.

"The assessments made by the asessors must of course be largely a matter of individual judgment, but it is easy enough for them to determine what the values of properties on any particular street are by going to real estate agents and finding the prices. While the present law is defective it is yet entirely possible for the asse make a fair valuation under it if they act conscientiously. It must be remembered however that the cost of a house s by no means its true cash value. Every man who builds a house certain ideas of his own into it, these peculiarities may be considered worthless by another man who buys the house, and something must be deducted on this account.

'I am not sufficiently acquainted with the finances of the District to be able to say whether an equalization of the assessments would make it possible to reduce the taxes and shift some of the burdens from the poor to the rich. The present tax rate is very low. A rate of \$1,50 on the \$100, when properry is not assessed at more than half its value, is certainly not burdensome. It would be well, however, if the entire ax system of the District should be re-

Congressman Hemphill of South Carlina, who is also a member of the District Committee, thought that if the present law was honestly enforced there would be no unequal assessments. He was favorably impressed with the idea of having an independent body to revise the work of the assessors, in order all tax-payers received equal treatment. Like the other members of the committee he said that he was not sufficiently informed regarding the finances of the District to make any suggestions look-ing to a reduction of the tax rate through an equalization of taxes.

A reporter called upon the District tioned them regarding the last year's as-

CRITIC'S article of Monday relating

Commissioner Douglass was short

and saecharine in his remarks. He said: "I have not read the article yet, but I have heard it discussed. I do not wish Commissioner Hine was more communicative. He said he had not read THE CRITIC's article, but from what

the reporter told him he was en rapport I have no hesitancy in stating that the District needs a permanent Board of Assessors, and there is now a bill efore Congress providing for such

"Do you think the assessors last year were capable men?" asked the nterviewer.

were not familiar with values of real estate in the District, and undoubtedly made very serious mistakes in their as-sessments. The only remedy is the ressors to be in continuous session with full power, under the control of the Commissioners, to correct the assess-

fact that some of the assessors were unfamiliar with the real value of the property they assessed. I believe that once
in three years is enough for a general
assessment, but I think, to repeat myself, that an Assessor should be selected
without regard to his political prejudices and without regard to anything other than his honesty, capability and familiarity with the District and the taxable property in it.

DULL DEPARTMENTS.

the District, said: "What we need is a board of permanent assessors, selected with a view to their familiarity with District real estate and holding office

during good behavior. The fault in the last assessments probably lies in the fact that some of the assessors were un-

Unprofitable Experiences of a .. Critic' Man Seeking News. It seldom happens that such dulines

characterizes the various down town Departments as was noticed to-day. None of the heads of the various branches had any news to give out, and many of them admitted that busines was almost unprecedentedly quiet.

The affable little gentleman, Mr. Reynolds, who guards the entrance door of the Department of the Interior building, shook his head sadly as the reporter entered and whispered 'Oh, it's awful dull.'

Captain Brannon, who is usually bubbling over with gossip, had nothing whatever to say. Chief Clerk Dawson, who handles the reins of the Interior Department, said, "nothing to day" to the reporter's inquiry for news, and Commissioner of Patents Mitchell, after assuring an aged lady applicant for a position that there was no existing law which could prevent her from calling as often as she chose, said to the re-porter that the only thing which tended toward newness was the fact that back work in the examination of patents was being rapidly caught up with, and at present was only two weeks behind.

The fine looking Commissioner, Judge Groft, who has his hand on the throttle in the Land Office, simply smiled and shook his head in the negative. Across the street in the Postoflice Department the scene everywhere was one of ani-mation, but so far as the general public is concerned there was nothing to be learned which would cause even a ripple of talk on the surface of the great sea of humanity. The wheels of the Department were simply grinding away at routine work. Chief Clerk Cooley, who is one of the ollers of the great Postoffice machine, admitted that so far as public news is concerned he never saw it more dull than at present. First Assistant Postmaster Clarkson's office was crowded with anxious-look ing strangers, but the scene was not an unusual one. The crowd simply consisted of applicants for postmasterships for little obscure postoffices in the

back-woods of the country.

The big brick human hive of industry at F and Fifth streets northwest-the Pension Building-swarmed with work ers, filling up the little boxes which honey-comb the interior of the big building with pension morsels, which will probably prove sweet to poor widows and crippled soldiers some day. It was here that THE CRITIC grappled with his first piece of interesting news of the day. He found a disposition on the part of one of the officials to show an aggressive spirit. The official was not slow in maintaining that the work was being greatly impeded by Con-

Several years ago, he said, an act of in slowly at first, but gradually they began to increase. Pension lawyers. discovering the attitude affairs taken, gave considerable attention to the Capitol lobbies, and, through dealings with Congressmen, succeeded in hav-ing their pensions sent in as preferred ones on the Congressional slips. As a consequence of this the pensions from Congress have reached the enormous average of from 1,000 to 1,500 every Inasmuch as these applications and documents have to receive imme diate attention the regular routine work

is greatly retarded. The original courtesy was extended. that the Congressmen might be of bene fit to their constituency, but it has reached that stage now, where members of the House send in pension docu-ments from all over the country. This necessitates an increase in the force of employes and lately this class of work has, it was said, caused an in-

dequacy in the working forces. The Census Office building is literally greaning under the pressure of work, and everything is being gotten in order for the reception of more of it. said that with the exception of four supervisors of census in as many States they have all been appointed, and their commissions will have all been sent in a few days. Then the great wheel will nation will be visited and its occupants'

name will be put on record.

The Mary Washington tea to be given on February 22 at Mrs. Ransom's Studio, No. 915 F street, from 4 to 10 o'clock, will be an event with many novel features. Well-known society ladies will appear in Mary Washingto owns, and gentlemen will be dressed n Continental costumes; old-time plan tation melodies, good music, splendid supper and dancing will fitly commenorate Washington's birthday and add something to the monument fund. Mrs. Talmadge, the great-grandniece of Washington, will assist, and among the many ladies from official circles who will receive are the following:

will receive are the following:
Mrs. Senator Ingalls, Mrs. Senator
Spooner, Mrs. Senator Gorman, Mrs. Senator Reagan, Mrs. Senator Berry, Mrs.
Senator Dixon, Mrs. Senator Daniel, Mrs.
Senator Pierce, Mrs. Senator Jones, Mrs.
Senator Wilson, Mrs. Representative Elanchard, Mrs. Representative Kennedy,
Mrs. Representative Cutcheon, Mrs. Representative Owens, Mrs. Representative Outhwaite, Mrs. Representative Outhwaite, Mrs. Representative Outhwaite, Mrs. Representative Outhwaite, Mrs. Representative Baker, Mrs. Representative Post.

ative Baker, Mrs. Representative Post. Cadeis From Staunton Academy,

Seventy Cadets from the Staunton Male Academy, with their officers and instructors, are stopping at the Howard House. The cadets have a natty gray uniform and present a soldiery appearance. The trip they are taking is their annual holidsy, which the academy gives them instead of Christmas week. They have been to Richmond, Old Point, Fortress Monroe and Norfolk. They will visit the points of interest in his city and return to Staunton, via Charlottesville

The school is largely composed of Southern youths, forty-two of whom are from Texas. The officers in charge of the party are: Mr. W. H. Kable, principal of the academy; Mr. W. W. libbs, business manager; Captain J. R. Doyles, military instructor, and Cap tain Terry, who commands the cadets,

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MRS. MINER'S BALLOT.

Her Prosecution of the Officers Who Threw It Out.

HER TALE OF WOE AGAIN TOLD.

Other Brave Strugglers for Weman's Rights in the Tribune.

Mrs. Elwell and Mrs. Marsh Review the Situation of the Female Suf-fragists in Ohio-Eavored by the Farmers' Alliance.

The reading of State reports was resumed at the Convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association in Lincoln Music Hall, the first being from Missouri, which was read by Mrs. Virginia Miner, whose name appears in a decision of the United States Supreme Court growing out of her attempt to vote in 1872. Her ballot was rejected by the election officers, and for this she prosecuted them. Mrs. Miner is not aggressive in appearance, and was not able to tell of any great progress in the woman suffrage movement in

Mrs. Frances Eilen Burr, the secre-tary of the Equal Rights Club of Hartford, Ct., and of the Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association, told of the work in that State, and Mrs. Margaret W. Campbell followed with a report for Iowa. Mrs. Martha W. Ellwell of Ohio reports that a woman suf-frage constitutional amendment had re-cently been defeated in that State and that a petition for woman suffrage had been signed by 15,000 citizens of Ohio. Miss Marsh of that State added that a law had been passed appointing women as directors of the workhouses, but had been declared unconstitutional by the courts on the ground that women could not hold the office because they are not

Mrs. Brown of Cincinnati urged every woman to go into politics, not as a member of the association, but as an individual, and then asked Mr. Black-well to read the resolutions. These declare the enfranchisement of woman to be the greatest question before the American people, condemn the present form of government as one of distocracy of sex, demand that women should have equal voice with men in divorce legislation, rejoice in the progress of the woman suffrage movement, recommend thorough organization of forces, especially for securing woman suffrage in South Dakota, ask for a sixteenth constitutional amend-ment, giving women the same rights as men, and regret the death of many co-workers during the past week.

Mrs. Lillie Devereux Blake offered another resolution, demanding that wherever the World's Fair be held, vomen be given a representation on the committees.

The resolution regarding South Dakota led to a discussion, in which Mr. Wardall of the Farmers' Alliance of that State said that the people there were in favor of woman suf-frage, and would vote on a con-stitutional amendment granting it this fall. The Farmers' Alliance, he stated, was in favor of woman suffrage, and had adopted a suffrage resolution with Several years ago, he said, an act of courtesy was extended to members of the House whereby any application for pension money sent to the Bureau through a Congressman was woman suffrage. Mr. Wardall recom-given preference over personal applica-mended that a large fund be raised for tions or ones presented by pension law- | work in South Dakota, and asked for

send a worker they would accomplish Mr. Wardall took the opportunity o deny the story of destitution reported from his State. While the people were poor, they were not starving or freezing,

Mrs. Pickler, also of South Dokota, indersed Mr. Wardail's remarks, and praised Dakota's men as "the grandest the world." If they gained the vic tory for woman suffrage there, she be

Mrs. McAdow of Montana pledged \$100 for the work, with perhaps more in the future, and the Pennsylvania Association, through Mrs. Blankenburg Mr. Blackwell for Massachusetts, Miss Emily Howland for New York, and a delegate from Ohio pledged the same amounts. Rev. Annie H. Shaw, who undertook the task of raising the money, pledged \$100; Pennsylvania added \$50, and Ohio doubled her contribution. Rhode Island, through Mrs. Julia Ward Howe promised \$100 and a large number of contributions of \$25 and less were received. The Busi Woman's Journal promised \$25 and 5,000 copies of the Journal, Mr. Wilcox of New York pledged \$100. Mrs. McAdow of Montana promised an

additional \$100. Miss Susan B. Anthony pledged all ber efforts to South Dakota and all the money she could raise. Mrs. Marsh and Mrs. McAdow circulated through the audlence with men's hats and succeeded in raising quite an amount of money in that way. Mrs. Peters of Columbus, Ohio, pledged \$100, making \$500 in all for Ohio. Altogether not less than \$1,500 was contributed. The resolutions were adopted without opposition.

The following finance committee was appointed to look out for South Da-

ols: Rev. Annie H. Shaw, Mrs. Lucy Anthony, Mrs. Marsh, Mrs. Free-can, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Dickinson and Mrs. McAdow. Miss Anthony announced that Mrs. Harrison had invited the members of the Executive Committee to call upon her at the White House at 4 o'clock. At the session this evening Henry B. Blackwell of Massachusetts will speak on "Woman Suffrage, a Growth of Civillzation," and Mrs. Julia Ward Howe on "Chivalry of Reform," and Rev. Fred A. Hinckley will take the place assigned to Lucy Stone, who

cannot be present. Improving Heavy Ordnance

New Your, Feb. 20.—It is stated that if Belleville, the inventor of the Belle-cille tubulous boiler, has succeeded in wile fubulous belier, has succeeded in adapting his steam generator to the fur-niaring of a propellent for heavy ordeance guns, in lieu of powder, air or electricity. M. Belleville has found that his boiler will supply steam in sufficient quantities, and at the required instant of time, to a degree that will give a 500-pound projectile over four times the velocity obtainable in the prosent insummits run.

Murderers to Hang.

AUGUSTA, Mn., Feb. 20.—Judge Foster has written an opinion denying a new trial for Stain and Cromwell, who stand con-victed of the murder of Cashier Pairco. It is thought that the other judges of the

Did Not Join the Trust.

Full Adelicate, Feb. 20.—W. W. Fra-zier, ir., of the Franklin Sugar Refluing Company, said yesterday that there was not one word of truth in the report of their having joined the Sugar Trust.